Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

US History; Ms. Hulme

Monday, January 25, 2010

**Reconstruction Amendments: Homework**

*Directions:* Read the following excerpts from *Call to Freedom* and answer the critical thinking questions at the bottom of the passage. You may write your answers on this page in full sentences. It is due on **TUESDAY**.

**The Thirteenth Amendment**:

One thing Republicans agreed on was abolishing slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation had freed slaves only in the Confederate states that had been occupied by Union forces. The proclamation allowed slavery to continue in the border states. In addition, many people feared that the federal courts may someday declare the Emancipation Proclamation unconstitutional. On January 31, 1865, at Lincoln’s urging, Congress proposed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which made slavery illegal throughout the United States. The amendment went into effect on December 18, 1865. Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison declared that his work was now finished. Frederick Douglass, however, insisted that “Slavery is not abolished until the black man has the ballot [vote].”

1. *In which states did the Emancipation Proclamation free slaves in? Why was this a problem?*
2. *Why did William Lloyd Garrison think that the fight to end slavery was now over?*
3. *What did Frederick Douglass want for former slaves? How was his view point different from William Lloyd Garrison?*

**The Fourteenth Amendment**

The Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed citizenship and equal protection under the law to all people born or naturalized within the United States, with the exception of American Indians. It said that state governments could not, “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

The amendment also banned many former Confederate officials from holding state or federal offices. In addition, the amendment made state laws subject to federal court review. The final section of the amendment gave Congress the power to pass any laws needed to enforce any part of the amendments. The editors of one black newspaper wrote, “We are entering upon the greatest political contest that has ever agitated [upset] the people of the country.”

1. *Which group of people were not protected under the 14th amendment?*
2. *What effect did the 14th amendment have on former Confederate officials?*
3. *Why might a black newspaper editor state, “We are entering upon the greatest political contest that has ever agitated [upset] the people of the country”?*

**The Fifteenth Amendment**

In 1869 Congress proposed the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave African American men throughout the United States the right to vote. Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison praised “this wonderful, quiet, sudden transformation of four million of human beings… from the auction block to the ballot-box.” The amendment, which went into effect in 1870, was one of the last important pieces of Reconstruction legislation passed at the federal level.

The Fifteenth Amendment did not please every reformer, however. Women’s rights activists were angry because the amendment did not also grant women the right to vote.

1. *How did William Lloyd Garrison’s thoughts change with the passing of the 15th Amendment?*
2. *Why was it so important that black men were given the right to vote?*
3. *Why do you think the 15th amendment did not include the right for women to vote?*